

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 707
By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to honor Charles A. Bettis for his service in the Vietnam War as part of the 2003 Loudon County Memorial Day Program.

WHEREAS, since the birth of our great nation, hundreds of thousands of brave American men and women have served their country in the armed forces and many continue this legacy of service today, defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor those courageous men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to preserve the blessed freedoms we enjoy today; over one million Americans throughout our country's history have died in the service of this nation; and

WHEREAS, from the battles of the Rhineland in Europe, to the many battles of the Korean Peninsula, to the firefights and skirmishes of Southeast Asia, and to the air strikes and bombing missions of the Persian Gulf, our armed forces have unselfishly paid the price of freedom for their friends and families, and for all of us as Tennesseans and Americans; and

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WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to pause in its deliberations to honor the brave sons of Loudon County who forfeited their liberty and, in many instances, their lives, and to further recognize those who endured personal hardships and imprisonment at the hands of our enemies so that we might continue to enjoy the many bounties of democracy and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, in this same spirit, Loudon County will be holding a 2003 Veterans' Memorial Ceremony at which time Thomas Howard Bettis, a World War II veteran; Ralph J. Shope, a World War II and Korean War veteran; Charles A. Bettis, a Vietnam War veteran; and Joe D. Mourfield, a Desert Shield and Desert Storm veteran will be specially recognized and honored as representatives of the veterans of each of these four wars; and

WHEREAS, this fitting observance provides the citizens of Loudon County with the opportunity to pay tribute to the veterans from their community who have well served this country; it is incumbent upon the members of this legislative body to recognize this important county observance and these four individuals; and

WHEREAS, Charles A. Bettis graduated from Loudon High School in 1968 and attended East Tennessee State before volunteering for the United States Army and duty in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Charles A. Bettis, a U.S. Army Sergeant, spent over fourteen months of his military service in Vietnam as a member of the Americal Division in Company A of the 196th Infantry Brigade, where his specialty was a radio telegraph operator and his duty consisted of dangerous reconnaissance missions and patrols in such areas as Chu Lai and Da Nang, including several thirty-day excursions on patrols setting ambushes in the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) throughout 1970 and 1971; and

WHEREAS, Charles A. Bettis received the Vietnam Service Medal, the Army Commendation, and the Bronze Star as a platoon citation for a particular action where his platoon captured an enemy position and recovered a large cache of weaponry and foodstuffs, but his concerns and memories of his extended tour of duty during the Vietnam War are of

those fellow veterans “who gave the ultimate sacrifice” at such a young age, including less fortunate comrades who received serious wounds; and

WHEREAS, Charles A. Bettis has served the Loudon County community as a member and officer of many community civic clubs and organizations and has worked in the banking community since the early 1970s, beginning with the Bank of Loudon County and presently serving as a senior officer of First National Bank; “Charlie” is the epitome of the community service banker, assisting many families, small business owners' and farmers to achieve their dreams of homeownership and business and farming success; and

WHEREAS, Charles A. Bettis, the son of Clarence and Edith Bettis, enjoys the love of his wife, Linda Miller Bettis, whom he married in 1973, and the love of his daughters, Leigh Bettis and Amanda Bettis Monks, as well as two grandchildren, other family members, church members, and friends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Charles A. Bettis for his accomplishments as a veteran, a family man, and a community leader.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all Loudon County citizens to join with us in this worthy Memorial Day observance, to acknowledge the sacrifices and heroism of Charles A. Bettis and the other veterans of the Vietnam War, advocating that local ceremonies and services be held across the country in memory of all deceased veterans and in appreciation and admiration for their local veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.